

A company called Sinclair Broadcast Group owns 62 TV stations in 39 advertising markets. As you may have heard in the news, Sinclair has made a corporate decision to force its local affiliates to air a film called "Stolen Honor."

I believe the showing of the movie is a partisan abuse of Sinclair's position as a broadcaster on public airwaves. Its timing is calculated to try to affect the outcome of the presidential election and is part of a pattern of partisan activity on Sinclair's part. Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. As an American who values a balanced media, I would be equally upset to see a liberal film like "Fahrenheit 9/11" being forced on station affiliates as news.

It's important that

we get analysis of  
real substance, with  
a nonpartisan  
perspective.

Further, these  
decisions should not  
be enforced from a  
distant corporate  
headquarters, but  
made from within our  
own communities.

Sinclair's actions  
show why we need to  
strengthen media  
ownership rules, not  
weaken them. Thank  
you.